



State of West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling

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Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Via U.S. Mail
Mac Warner, The Honorable Secretary of State
Secretary of State's Office – Administrative Law
Bldg. 1, Suite 157-K
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, WV 25305

FILED
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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

Re: West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling
Temporary Suspension of W. Va. Code R. § 27-1-7.7

Dear Secretary of State Warner:

The Honorable Governor of the State of West Virginia, Jim Justice, has declared a State of Emergency to address the emergency created by the worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In a Proclamation issued March 16, 2020, the Governor delegated to "all state agencies the ability to suspend rules, if strict compliance therewith would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency."

The West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling ("Board") is actively monitoring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board is dedicated to fulfilling its primary mission of protecting the public during this time, while continuing to ensure that West Virginia has the workforce it needs to provide professional counseling services throughout the State.

At its meeting held October 23, 2020, and pursuant to the Governor's Proclamation, the Board voted to temporarily suspend its rule requiring a provisional licensee to pay a fee in order to renew his or her provisional license for an additional 24 months, W. Va. Code R. § 27-1-7.7. The suspension of this rule applies only during the declared State of Emergency.

Therefore, a provisional licensee of the Board, who does not complete his or her supervised counseling experience within 36 months, may renew his or her provisional license for an

additional 24 months without having to pay a fee. The Board finds it necessary and appropriate to temporarily suspend the fee provision of W. Va. Code R. § 27-1-7.7 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

In communicating this decision to its licensees, the Board will note that the remaining provisions of W. Va. Code R. § 27-1-1 et seq. are unaffected and still apply. The Board will issue to licensees any further guidance or instructions deemed necessary.

The Board would respectfully request that the Secretary of State's Office accept this correspondence as notice of the temporary suspension of W. Va. Code R. § 27-1-7.7 and post a copy of this correspondence on its website.

Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the Board's office by telephone, (304) 558-5494, or by email, counselingboard@msn.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Henry".

Cheryl Henry, Executive Director
West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling